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## US RADIO: PROPAGANDA AND ESPIONAGE

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THE REPORT of the CPSU Central Committee to the 24th CPSU Congress says: "We are living under conditions of unabating ideological struggle, which imperialist propaganda is waging against our country, against the world of socialism, using the most subtle methods and powerful technical means."

Broadcasting is an important channel in the imperialist, above all US, propaganda machine which churns out anti-communist propaganda for export. Since the war, radiostations like the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe have been a major foreign policy instrument, notably, in the "psychological warfare" of US imperialism against the forces of peace, democracy and socialism.

The USA's psychological warfare against the countries of the socialist community and the anti-imperialist forces is an important line of imperialist strategy in the contest between the two world systems. Imperialist politicians regard it as a form of struggle, alongside military blocs and the arms drive, against the triumphant advance of communist ideas and the mounting anti-imperialist feelings throughout the world, a form of ideological conditioning for fresh anti-socialist crusades.

At the same time, the special attention devoted to psychological warfare in the political centres of imperialism is convincing evidence of the decline of imperialism's ideological and political positions.

The steady advance of socialism, and the growing content and forms of the anti-imperialist struggle have given rise to enormous world-wide interest in the theory and practice of socialist construction and communist ideology.

That is why bourgeois propaganda has been doing its best to reduce the influence and attractive force of the socialist countries, debase communist ideals, and undermine the impact of socialism on world history. Radio broadcasting has had an important part to play in such propaganda, with US radio centres outside the

country often being used as a cover for anti-socialist espionage carried on by US intelligence agencies.

## ANTI-COMMUNIST RADIOFRONT

DEPENDING on their tasks and place in the US state apparatus, US foreign service stations are designated as white, grey and black. A Department of the Army manual, entitled *Psychological Warfare Operations*, explains: "White propaganda which is disseminated and acknowledged by the sponsor or an accredited agency thereof. Grey propaganda which does not specifically identify any source. Black propaganda purposes to emanate from a source other than the true one."<sup>1</sup> Government radiostations are classified as white and work on the simple principle of a distorting mirror: they misinform their listeners not by means of barefaced lying, but rather by distorting the picture of life, above all in the socialist countries.

Psychological warfare specialist H. Boring points out that grey and black propaganda have the advantage of irresponsibility and can broadcast scandals and rumours without discredit to the government.<sup>2</sup> Propaganda conducted on behalf of "private" organisations includes political defamation, provocations and other methods of subversion, without giving its opponents any formal pretext to pin the responsibility on the US Administration.

But it is the Voice of America, a government outfit, which sets the tone in the psychological warfare against the socialist countries. Established nearly 30 years ago, in February 1942, it now has 104 short and medium-wave transmitters in the USA and abroad. Its main studios and master recording stations with a staff of 1,500 are located in Washington. Another 1,000 are employed at monitoring centres abroad.

<sup>1</sup> *Psychological Warfare Operations*, p. 8.

<sup>2</sup> See H. Boring, *Psychology for the Armed Services*, Washington, 1945, p. 493.